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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Strengthening Afghan Agricultural Faculties (SAAF)

OVERVIEW

The objective of the “Strengthening Afghan Agricultural Faculties (SAAF)” project is to strengthen the capacity of the faculties of agriculture and veterinary science at Afghan universities, particularly the Universities of Kabul, Balkh, Hirat, Kandahar, and Jalalabad, to produce graduates in agriculture and related disciplines that have the technical knowledge, problem solving, and communication skills required by future employers. SAAF activities include faculty education and training, curriculum development, and course modernization, as well as facility improvement. Developing laboratory skills, practical field activities, and internships that connect to classroom lectures will develop critical thinking skills. While the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education will be the primary partner, the program will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Long-term degree training:** Provide M.S. and Ph.D. training for staff of the faculties of agriculture from Afghan universities and MAIL
- **Technical assistance and short-term training:** Build capacity of Afghan staff/faculty through, short-term training (both in country and in the U.S. and neighboring countries), technology transfer, visiting professorships, and training and mentoring by resident project staff and visiting faculty from U.S. and Indian universities
- **Building Institutional linkages:** Build linkages between Afghan academic institutions and those in the U.S., India, and neighboring countries, in order to promote program and staff development within the Afghan faculties of agriculture
- **Improved Management:** Develop demand-based curricula; assist in faculty/department development, including developing staffing, facility and equipment plans
- **Student training:** Provide students with training and internship opportunities in preparation for employment
- **Facility renovation and improvement:** Support basic renovation, development and management of necessary infrastructure, and development of farms, laboratories and computer facilities, with their integration into academic programs

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Identified the first candidates to be trained both in India and the United States for FY 2011/12 through a transparent candidate selection process